GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:120
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
CULTIVABLE LAND
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cultivable land in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh has declined considerably whereas that under non-agriculture uses has increased over the Ninth and Tenth Plan Period;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the extent of cultivable land in order to achieve the targeted growth rate of agriculture?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 120 DUE FOR REPLY ON 20TH AUGUST, 2007.

(a) to (c): As per available estimates, there is a marginal decline in cultivable land from 183.59 million ha. in the beginning of Ninth Plan (1997-98) to 182.57 million ha. in 2005-06 in the Tenth Plan for which the figures are available. During the same period, area under non-agricultural purposes has increased from 22.69 million ha. to 24.94 million ha. in the country.

In case of Andhra Pradesh also, there is a marginal decline in cultivable land from 15.86 million ha. in the beginning of Ninth Plan (1997-98) to 15.76 million ha. in 2005-06 in the Tenth Plan for which the figures are available. During the same period, area under non- agricultural purposes has increased from 2.58 million ha. to 2.71 million ha.

The marginal decline in cultivable land in the country including Andhra Pradesh is due to diversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries etc.

Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely,
(i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA),
(ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR),
(iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS),
(iv) Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)

(v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP),
(vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP),
(vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP),
(viii) Watershed Development Fund (WDF) and
(ix) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) for development of lands in the country. Under these programmes, since inception upto Tenth Five Year Plan, an area of about 50.83 million ha. has been developed. Parts of such developed lands are also brought under cultivation to maintain balance in different types of land uses. To achieve the targeted growth rate in agriculture, the major thrust is on increasing productivity.